Case 2623

Papilio carthami Hübner, [1813] and *Syrichthus serratulae major* Staudinger, 1879 (currently both in *Pyrgus*; Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation of the names *carthami* and *major*

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the Skipper butterfly specific names *carthami* Hübner, [1813] and *major* Staudinger, 1879 by suppression of the senior name *maior*.

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1. In 1787 (p. 91) Fabricius described a Skipper butterfly which he considered a variety of *Papilio fritillum* Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775 under the name *'Papilio Maluae maior'*. Possibly he did not use the combination *'Papilio fritillum maior'* because he wanted to contrast his variety with *Papilio malvae minor* Esper, 1777, which he listed as a synonym of *Papilio fritillum*. The type of Fabricius' *maior* appears to be lost; it is not mentioned by Zimsen (1964).

2. Apparently Denis & Schiffermüller (1775, p. 159) united several species under the name *Papilio fritillum*. This was already known by Ochsenheimer (1808, p. 203), who had seen that about four different species were placed under this name in the Schiffermüller collection. Because Fabricius listed *Papilio malvae minor* Esper as a synonym of *Papilio fritillum,* he used the latter name in the sense of *Papilio* (now *Pyrgus*) *malvae* Linnaeus, 1758, which name refers without doubt to the same species as *Papilio malvae minor*. Thus Fabricius' description must be compared with *Pyrgus malvae* (known in English as the Grizzled Skipper). I have shown (De Jong, 1987, pp. 376–377) that Fabricius' description of *maior* and his reference to Esper (1777, pl. 23, fig. 2) can only relate to the species that was named *Papilio carthami* by Hübner ([1813], pl. 143).

3. After the original description of *maior* the name has merely been mentioned, by the following authors: Fabricius (1793: copy of the original description); Ochsenheimer (1808, p. 202: name attributed to Esper and synonymised with '*Papilio tessellum* Hübner' (p. 70) which in the sense of Ochsenheimer is the same as *Papilio carthami* Hübner); Evans (1949, p. 199: as a junior synonym of *Papilio fritillarius* Poda, 1761, which he considered a synonym of *Papilio carthami* Hübner, see below); De Jong (1972, p. 70: as a synonym of *Papilio carthami* Hübner); and Leraut (1980: in the same sense as Evans). So far *maior* Fabricius has never been used as a valid specific name.

4. The species described by Fabricius as *Papilio malvae maior* has been known as *Papilio* (now *Pyrgus*) *carthami* Hübner, ever since the publication of Hübner's [1813] good figure of it. Since Hemming (1943, p. 69) the name *Papilio fritillarius* Poda, 1761 (a nomen dubium) also came into use for this species. I have shown (De Jong, 1987, pp. 372–376) this to be incorrect. Thus the valid name for the species is *Pyrgus maior* (Fabricius, 1787), a name never used as such in literature.

5. Staudinger (1879, p. 292) described a geographic form of *Pyrgus serratulae* Rambur, 1839 (p. 318, pl. 8, fig 9m) from Asia Minor under the name *Syrichthus serratulae major*. This form belongs to a group of geographical forms occupying the eastern part of the range of the species. Six or seven subspecies can be distinguished in this group (De Jong, 1972, pp. 67–73). Of the available names within the group, *major* Staudinger is the oldest one, so lumping of the eastern forms into a single subspecies would not cause the name to disappear into synonymy. Staudinger's name has been used for the Turkish form of *Pyrgus serratulae* by all subsequent authors on *Pyrgus serratulae* from Turkey (Alberti, 1969, p. 141; De Jong, 1972, p. 71; Higgins, 1966, p. 220; Warren, 1926, p. 164), but Evans (1949, p. 197) used the name *uralensis* Warren, 1926 for the whole of the eastern group because Staudinger's *major* is a junior secondary homonym of the *maior* of Fabricius.

6. The acceptance of *maior* Fabricius as a specific name would (a) invalidate the generally accepted name *Pyrgus carthami* (Hübner) by sinking it into synonymy, and (b) for reasons of homonymy (Article 58 of the Code) necessitate a replacement name for *major* Staudinger for the Turkish form of this species.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *maior* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the trinomen *Papilio malvae maior*, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principal of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
   (a) *carthami* Hübner, [1813], as published in the binomen *Papilio carthami*;
   (b) *major* Staudinger, 1879, as published in the trinomen *Syrichthus serratulae major*;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *maior* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the trinomen *Papilio malvae maior* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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